1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
15.	Tripura	55	35	20	20	-	-
16.	Uttar Pradesh	205	205	80	80	215	140
17.	West Bengal	45	45	-	-	-	-
		1160	1160	753	753	1600	1285

Acceptance of Payments by FCI

1682. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the FCI has directed its regional offices throughout the country that no transaction whatsoever in the form of acceptance of paying deposits including bank guarantee, demand draft and deposits at all receipts issued by the Punjab National Bank shall take place until further orders;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Punjab National Bank has stopped honouring bank guarantee in favour of FCI;

(d) if so, the main reasons therefor;

(e) whether this has caused great hindrance in pushing the additional stock of rice and wheat from the FCI godowns to deficit States; and

(f) if so, the steps taken to ensure the supply of additional stocks to the deficit States in due course?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The decision has been taken by the Corporation to safeguard their financial interest as the Punjab National Bank has been refusing to honour bank guarantees issued by it.

(c) and (d). Punjab National Bank has refused to honour some bank guarantees issued in favour of Food Corporation of India for one reason or the other i.e. non-competence of the Branch Manager to accept the guarantees and presentation of the guarantees by FCI to the Bank for encashment after validity period.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Separate Cell for SCs/STs

1683. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :

SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up any separate cell for the Welfare and recruitment of persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Molasses

1684. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the excessive stocks of molasses at the sugar mills are causing a serious problem to the sugar mills;

(b) if so, the details regarding excessive stocks of molasses, State-wise;

(c) the strategies worked out for utilisation of molasses in various atternative options with best possible returns for different regions; and

(d) the present quantum of molasses and projection thereof for the next three years and utilisation pattern proposed in terms of national priorities?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (d). Due to high level of production during the sugar season 1994-95 and 1995-96, there has been corresponding increase in production of Molasses during these two seasons. The Statewise details of stocks of molasses are not maintained. However, the production of sugar and molasses during the last five years are given below :

(Fig. in Lakh Tonnes)

Season	Sugar	Molasses
1991-92	134.11	60.20
1992-93	106.09	43.50
1993-94	98.24	42.20
1994-95	146.43	64.96
1995-96	164.29 (provisional)	73.93 (estimated)